

Application No. 09/995,287
Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2005

Docket No.: 65678-0043

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) A system for providing access to an asset, comprising:

a database that includes data related to at least one asset and data related to at least one asset user;

a data acquisition device that is associated with the asset;

an approval device that is connected to the data acquisition device; and

a processor that is capable of determining whether the asset user is authorized to operate the asset.

24. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein the data acquisition device comprises the processor.

25. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 24, wherein the data acquisition device comprises a memory that contains the database.

26. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein the asset user provides inputs to the approval device.

27. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor received input from the approval device.

28. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein determining whether the asset user is authorized to operate the asset comprises determining whether the asset user is certified to operate the asset.

29. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein determining whether the asset user is authorized to operate the asset comprises determining whether the asset user has a reservation to use the asset.

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30. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23, wherein determining whether the asset user is authorized to operate the asset comprises determining whether allowing the asset user operate the asset would comply with OSHA regulations.

31. (Withdrawn) A wireless device operable to provide access to an asset by an operator, said mobile wireless device comprising:

- a processor operable to determine accessibility for the operator, said processor being in communication with the asset to enable and disable usage of the asset by the operator;

- an input device coupled to said processor, and operable to receive information associated with the operator;

- a memory device coupled to said processor; and

- at least one database stored in said memory device, said at least one database including (i) identification data related to the information associated with the operator, and (ii) authorization condition data associated with the identification data.

32. (Withdrawn) The wireless device according to claim 31, wherein the information associated with the operator includes an operator identifier.

33. (Withdrawn) The wireless device of claim 31, wherein the authorization condition data includes at least one of the following: day, time, and location of the asset.

34. (Withdrawn) The wireless device according to claim 31, further comprising a wireless communication unit coupled to said processor, and operable to receive the data related to the information associated with the operator and authorization condition data.

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35. (Withdrawn) The wireless device according to claim 31, wherein said processor is operable to disable the asset based on at least one of the following: an authorized use of time; an indication by the operator; and the condition data.

36. (Currently amended) A method for utilizing a wireless communications system having a wireless infrastructure and a wireless device associated with the an asset, said method comprising:

- receiving an operator identifier from an operator of the asset;
- prompting, independent of an active communication link between the wireless device and wireless infrastructure, a question related to operational status of the asset for the operator;
- receiving a response to the question; and
- storing the response to the question.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising:

- determining that an active communication link between the asset and wireless infrastructure exists; and
- transmitting the stored response to the wireless infrastructure from the wireless device if an active communication link exists, otherwise, maintaining the response to the question.

38. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 36, further comprising:

- assigning an identifier to the response ~~having a temporal relationship to other identifiers assigned to other responses;~~
- storing the identifier in relation to the response.

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising: receiving a new question by the wireless device from the wireless infrastructure; and updating the question.

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40. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the question is specific to the asset.

41. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising storing a list of questions related to the operation status of the asset.

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising receiving the list of questions via a wireless communications link prior to said storing thereof, the list of questions being related to OSHA compliance.

43. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising: determining if the question is required to be prompted for the operator; and performing said prompting of the question to the operator if said determining results in the affirmative.

44. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, further comprising: determining if the question is required to be prompted based on an operating condition of the asset; and performing said prompting of the question to the operator if said determining results in the affirmative.

45. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein said prompting of the question includes accessing questions that relate to OSHA regulations.

46. (Previously presented) A wireless device for performing inspection of an asset utilizing a wireless communications system having a wireless infrastructure, said wireless device being associated with the asset and comprising:

an input unit operable to receive an operator identifier from an operator of the asset;

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a processing unit operable to receive the operator identifier from said input unit and operable to prompt, independent of an active communication link between the wireless device and wireless infrastructure, a question related to operational status of the asset for the operator;

a display unit coupled to said processing unit and operable to display the question being prompted to the operator, a response to the question being prompted being received by said processing unit; and

a storage unit in communication with said processing unit and operable to store the response to the question.

47. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 46, wherein said processing unit is further operable to: determine that an active communication link between the asset and wireless infrastructure exists; and transmit the stored response to the wireless infrastructure if an active communication link exists, otherwise, maintain the response to the question.

48. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 46, wherein said processing unit is further operable to: receive a new question from the wireless infrastructure; and update the question being stored in said storage unit.

49. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 46, wherein the question is specific to the asset.

50. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 46, wherein said storage unit is further operable to store a list of questions related to the operation status of the asset.

51. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 50, wherein said processing unit is further operable to receive the list of questions via a wireless communications link prior to said storage unit storing the list of question, the list of questions being related to OSHA compliance.

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52. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 46, wherein said processing unit is further operable to:

determine if the question is required to be prompted for the operator;
and prompt of the question to the operator if the determination results in the affirmative.

53. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 46, wherein said processing unit is further operable to:

determine if the question is required to be prompted based on an operating condition of the asset; and
prompt of the question to the operator if the determination results in the affirmative.

54. (Previously presented) The wireless device according to claim 46, wherein said processing unit is further operable to access a list of questions related to OSHA regulations.

55. (Previously presented) A system for performing inspection of a mobile asset utilizing a wireless communications system having a wireless infrastructure and a wireless device associated with the asset, said system comprising:

means for receiving an operator identifier from an operator of the asset;
means for prompting, independent of an active communication link between the wireless device and wireless infrastructure, a question related to operational status of the asset for the operator, said means for prompting being in communication with said means for receiving;
means for receiving a response to the question and in communication with said means for prompting; and
means for storing the response to the question, said means for storing being in communication with said means for prompting.

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56. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 55, further comprising:

means for determining that an active communication link between the asset and wireless infrastructure exists; and

means for transmitting the stored response to the wireless infrastructure from the wireless device if an active communication link exists, otherwise, maintaining the response to the question.

57. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 55, further comprising:

means for receiving a new question by the wireless device from the wireless infrastructure; and

means for updating the question.

58. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 55, wherein the question is specific to the asset.

59. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 55, further comprising means for storing a list of questions related to the operation status of the asset.

60. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 55, further comprising means for receiving the list of questions via a wireless communications link prior to said storing thereof, the list of questions being related to OSHA regulations.

61. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 55, further comprising:

means for determining if the question is required to be prompted for the operator; and

means for prompting the question to the operator if the determination results in the affirmative.

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62. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 55, further comprising: means for determining if the question is required to be prompted based on an operating condition of the asset; and means for prompting the question to the operator if the determination results in the affirmative.

63. (Withdrawn) A system for analyzing data associated with assets monitored by an asset management system, said system comprising:

a database containing the data associated with the assets being monitored by the asset management system, the data being generated in response to events occurring in association with respective assets;

a computing unit in communication with said database;

software executable by said computing unit and operable to:

receive a request to select specific data associated with the assets;

and

process the selected specific data to form a dataset based on the events of the respective assets to generate a report for a user of the asset management system to view; and

a display device in communication with said computing unit and operable to receive and display at least a portion of the dataset based on the events of the respective assets for the user to view.

64. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 63, wherein said database further includes event indicators representative of an event type.

65. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 64, wherein the event indicators include operator identifiers generated in response to operators of the assets interacting with at least one component of the asset management system to utilize the asset.

66. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 64, wherein the event type includes completion of an OSHA related questionnaire.

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67. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 64, wherein the event type includes start and stop times of the assets.

68. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 63, wherein the assets are mobile.

69. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 63, wherein the dataset formed by the processing of said software includes data representative of utilization of the assets.

70. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 69, wherein the dataset is formed for a time duration selected by the user.

71. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 69, wherein the utilization includes an accumulated amount of time that the assets are utilized to perform operations.

72. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 69, wherein said software is further operable to compare actual accumulated amount of time that the assets are utilized with planned utilization of the assets.

73. (Withdrawn) A method for analyzing data associated with assets monitored by an asset management system, said method comprising:

monitoring events occurring in association with the assets;

generating data associated with the respective assets being monitored and in response to events occurring with respective assets;

communicating the data generated to be stored in a database; storing the data in the database;

receiving a request to select specific data associated with the assets; processing the selected specific data to form a dataset based on the events of the respective assets to generate a report for a user of the asset management system to view;

and displaying at least a portion of the dataset based on the events of the respective assets for the user of the asset management system to view.

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74. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, wherein said generating data includes generating event indicators representative of an event type.

75. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, further comprising displaying an OSHA related questionnaire operable for an operator of an asset to answer.

76. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, wherein said generating of the data includes generating start and stop times of the asset in response to the asset being started and stopped.

77. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 73, wherein said generating includes forming data representative of utilization of the assets.

78. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 77, wherein the forming is based on a time duration selected by the user.

79. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 77, wherein the forming of data representative of utilization of the assets includes an accumulating an amount of time that the assets are utilized to perform operations.

80. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 77, further comprising comparing actual accumulated amount of time that the assets are utilized with planned utilization of the assets.

81. (Withdrawn) A system for providing a user with access to an asset, comprising:

an access device capable of receiving user identification information and user responses to questions from a predetermined checklist;

an approval device corresponding to the access device configured to provide the user with access to the asset or deny the user access to the asset based on the user identification information and the user responses.

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82. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 81, wherein the checklist comprises questions relating to compliance with OSHA regulations.

83. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 81, the access device comprising a key pad.

84. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 81, further comprising a data acquisition device attached to the approval device and configured to communicate with a central controller.

85. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 84, wherein the data acquisition device is configured to send an alert to the central controller if the approval device denies the user access to the asset.

86. (Withdrawn) A method for providing a user with access to an asset, comprising:

- receiving user identification information;
- receiving user responses to questions from a predetermined checklist;
- determining whether the user is authorized to access to the asset based on the user identification information and the user responses; and
- providing the user with access to the asset if the user is authorized, and denying the user access to the asset if the user is not authorized.

87. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86, wherein the checklist comprises questions relating to compliance with OSHA regulations.

88. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86, further comprising using a key pad to receive the user identification information and the user responses.

89. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 86, further comprising communicating with a central controller.

90. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 89, further comprising sending an alert to the central controller if user access to the asset is denied.

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91. (Withdrawn) A system for providing reports relating to asset maintenance, comprising:

an asset;

an analysis controller capable of determining whether the asset requires maintenance;

a report generation module capable of generating at least one maintenance report; and

a report delivery module capable of delivering the maintenance report.

92. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 91, wherein the report delivery module is capable of delivering the maintenance report via e-mail.

93. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 91, wherein the report delivery module is capable of delivering the maintenance report via the Internet.

94. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 93, wherein delivering the maintenance report via the Internet comprises causing the maintenance report to be posted to a web site.

95. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 91, wherein the maintenance report includes

96. an indication that asset maintenance is required.

97. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 95, wherein the indication is based on an elapsed time.

98. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 95, wherein the indication is based on the detection of a fault code.

99. (Withdrawn) The system of 95, wherein the indication is based on an analysis of raw operational data from the asset, a maintenance history for the asset, and maintenance trends for similar assets.

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100. (Withdrawn) The system of 95, wherein the indication is based on a determination that the asset does not comply with at least one OSHA regulation.

101. (Withdrawn) A method for providing reports relating to asset maintenance, comprising:

determining whether an asset requires maintenance, and, if the asset does require maintenance:

generating at least one maintenance report; and
electronically delivering the maintenance report.

102. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101, further comprising delivering the maintenance report via e-mail.

103. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101, further comprising delivering the maintenance report via the Internet.

104. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 103, wherein delivering the maintenance report via the Internet comprises causing the maintenance report to be posted to a web site.

105. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101, wherein the maintenance report includes information relating to a time at which asset maintenance is required.

106. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 101, wherein the maintenance report includes an indication that asset maintenance is required.

107. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 106, wherein the indication is based on an elapsed time.

108. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 106, wherein the indication is based on the detection of a fault code.

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109. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 106, wherein the indication is based on an analysis of raw operational data from the asset, a maintenance history for the asset, and maintenance trends for similar assets.

110. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 106, wherein the indication is based on a determination that the asset does not comply with at least one OSHA regulation.